Congressman Barney Frank Visits GSPP

Internship at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

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Dean’s Message

OVER THE YEARS, GSPP ALUMNI, FACULTY, AND STAFF have made quite an impact on Washington, DC. They’ve served as cabinet secretaries, white house and executive office staff members, Congressional staff, and as Deputy and Assistant secretaries and directors in executive departments throughout the federal government. They’ve also worked in an extraordinary range of non-profit organizations in DC. But can anyone really make a difference in Washington?

I certainly thought so in the summer of 1970. The Great Society of Lyndon Johnson was still in the air, partly because Richard Nixon did not care that much about domestic policy and partly because his inclinations in that arena were actually rather moderate. Nixon proposed a guaranteed negative income tax which was defeated, and he created the Environmental Protection Agency and the Council on Environmental Quality. It was an exciting and portentous time. The Vietnam War was dragging interminably on, but there was still a sense that government could do things.

That feeling was soon punctured by the Watergate Scandal and the cynicism about government that it engendered. The Ford and Carter presidencies only furthered this cynicism with Ford’s pardon of Nixon and Carter’s out-of-control economy with high unemployment and double-digit inflation. President Reagan restored some faith in the presidency, but at the cost of greatly diminishing the role of government. George Herbert Walker Bush paid dearly for his turnabout on taxes — first saying that there would be “no new taxes” and then raising them to balance the budget. President Clinton endorsed these trends by proclaiming the end of big government. We still live with this cynical legacy of doubts about government’s ability to get things done.

The recent visit of Congressman Barney Frank, retired member of Congress from Massachusetts, to GSPP showed that government can and must do things. Frank’s chairmanship of the Financial Services Committee in the House at a crucial time led to the Dodd-Frank Act which re-established a regulatory framework for banks and other financial institutions. The act is not perfect, but it creates a number of institutions and mechanisms that should make us better able to avoid financial crises. One of the most important is the Financial Stability Oversight Council which, for the first time, brings federal agencies together to consider the risks in the financial system. The act also eliminates some of the most risky financial service practices, and it provides ways to reduce the risk in others. From our week-long interactions with Congressman Frank at the Goldman School, we found that he thinks like a policy analyst — albeit one with very acute political sensitivities. These skills are evident in the warp and woof of the Dodd-Frank Act, and they demonstrate why we need good policy analysts in DC.

Congressman Frank exhorted us all to remember that government can and must act to protect the public welfare. He told us that too many people had too easily ceded the ground to those who believe that government can’t or shouldn’t act. He told us that we should go to Washington to serve and to make the government act more effectively and with a greater attention to justice and fairness.

Our students, faculty and alumni continue to heed this call. My interview with Congressman Frank can be found here on our UCTV Public Policy channel: gspp.berkeley.edu/uctv-barneyfrank

Editor’s Note

GROWING UP IN CALIFORNIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS, I never traveled to DC on one of those seemingly-ubiquitous school trips. I didn’t tour the White House, didn’t visit the Supreme Court. I never posed with a pack of excitable teens and slightly-harried chaperones in front of the Capitol Building. But even visiting Washington for the first time as an adult, I experienced a sense of childlike awe. The monuments! The museums! And free admission!

Working this issue of Policy Notes, I was reminded that most of the important work of Washington happens day-to-day, often without pomp and circumstance. Whether it is Farhat Pophal working on improving human rights in Afghanistan, Professor Hilary Hoyner advising President Obama on poverty and inequality or Tom Grumbly looking for places where partisan politics can be put aside for the common good, GSPP faculty, alumni and students are working in Washington and getting things done.

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Editor’s Note - Continued
THE STORY OF HOW FARHAT POPAL (MPP ’09) GOT TO DC

Farhat Popal is among the hundreds of Goldman School alumni who live and work in Washington DC and the greater metropolitan area. She, along with Stephen Agostini (MPP ’86) and Holly Harvey (MPP ’86) are part of an impressive network of Goldman School-trained, policy-smart leaders shaping public policy in the nation’s capital.

Farhat is currently a program officer for Afghanistan and Central Asia for the US State Department’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor/Office of Global Programs. As the bureau’s action officer for human rights programming in the region, she helps develop, implement, and manage programs that advance the US government’s human rights and democracy objectives.

“I knew I wanted to work in DC because not many places offered the opportunity to work on Afghanistan,” she says. “From the vast number of NGOs that implement development assistance, to the foreign policy establishment, to understanding the economic and political implications of a country’s history, it all happens in DC.”

Unlike Farhat, who came to DC relatively early in her career, Stephen Agostini spent twenty years in state and local government before beginning his work for the federal government. He is currently the Chief Financial Officer for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) but began his work in DC as the CFO of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) at the US Department of Energy. In 2009, he was appointed by Secretary of Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) program launched by President Obama in 2009. He was reappointed by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as the first Energy Envoy to the Americas as part of the inaugural economic advisory board for America presidential campaign.

Daniel Kammen was introduced by Secretary of State Hillary R. Clinton as the first Energy Envoy to the Americas as part of the inaugural Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) program launched by President Obama in 2009. He was reappointed by Secretary of Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) fellow (2012). In 2010–11, he served as the Senior Technical Specialist at the World Bank for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency and in 2008–09, he was at the US Environmental Protection Agency as a member of the Administrator’s National Scientific Technical Advisory Panel.

Unlike Farhat, who came to DC relatively early in her career, Stephen Agostini spent twenty years in state and local government before beginning his work for the federal government. He is currently the Chief Financial Officer for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) but began his work in DC as the CFO and Director of Administration of the Economics and Statistics Administration, which oversees the Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

“Having always been a big consumer of data from the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis, I was able to bring that important perspective into my role at the BEA,” says Steve. “Those data products are used for everything from revenue forecasting and constructing budgets to figuring out populations that may impact policy making at a local level. It was eye opening to think tanks and nonprofits. Goldman School faculty have served in numerous positions and roles in Washington, DC, including Henry E. Brady served on the President’s Advisory Council on Management Improvement in the Office of Management and Budget (1972–73).

John Ellwood served for five years on the management staff of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). He has served as a staff member of the US Senate Budget Committee and was a member of the original management team of the CBO, and served as the special assistant of its first director, Alice M. Rivlin.

Alexander Gelber served in 2012–13 as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy at Treasury Department and Acting Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy at Treasury. He gave unpaid help to the 2008 Obama for America presidential campaign.

Jennifer Granholm served on the economic advisory board for the transition team of President Barack Obama.

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Farhat Popal
Stephen Agostini
Holly Harvey

see how those data products were constructed and to weigh in on how they might be improved."

Steve notes that policy work at the federal level differs from the local and state level in both pace and scale.

“At the local level, an issue might have a very short time to gestate and turn into a problem,” he says. “As budget director, I put together budgets for cities and counties that impacted local programs right away. At the federal level, issues take a while to gestate. There are many stakeholders to engage and a lot of thought and discussion goes into moving something from an idea to a policy in the field.”

As the CFO of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Steve oversees the CFPB’s budget, financial reporting, internal reviews and audits, as well as a victim’s fund for those harmed by actors in the consumer product realm.

“If you had told me in policy school that I would be a CFO, I would have asked, ‘Why would I ever want to do that?’” says Steve. “But as CFO, I help manage the organization and work in policy areas that affect the bureau writ large. Now I would strongly encourage any GSPP grad to consider it.”

Holly Harvey (MPP ’86) fell in love with Washington DC during her summer internship with the Congressional Budget Office.

“I developed a strong interest in analysis related to the Medicare program during that summer,” she says. “Since that program is federally run, locating in DC made the most sense.”

Holly is currently the Deputy Assistant Director of CBO’s Budget Analysis Division. She oversees the division’s work to ensure high-quality analysis and works closely with Congressional committees and House and Senate leadership staff so that estimates and other products are available when needed for Congressional deliberations, especially on federal health and Medicare programs (e.g., Medicare, Medicaid, FDA, and NIH).

In her time at the CBO, Holly has seen both the amount of data available and the technology and speed to analyze and deliver the data change a great deal.

“Data is absolutely critical to policy leaders be sophisticated consumers as well as producers of policy analysis,” she says. “As part of that, future policy leaders will need to have good communication skills to convey the analytic basis of their policy proposals.”

For those aspiring to work in DC, especially for the long haul, Holly advises taking advantage of different opportunities to build expertise and knowledge of policy areas as well as the political process.

“It worked well for me to have a series of jobs in both the Executive and Congressional branches of government to gain a better understanding of the different roles the two branches play,” she says. “It helped me to be viewed as someone who was capable of quantitative analysis in general and not just an expert in a particular policy area.”

Steve notes that working in DC is also often about keeping the long view in mind.

“It is really difficult to change things overnight. You are not going to work in DC for just a couple of years and be able to point to something and say it’s done,” he says. “People have a romanticized view that all we have to do pass the law or come up with the great policy idea and the rest will take care of itself. Not so. Implementation matters, not only because the program or policy will touch an order of magnitude more individuals than at the local level, but also because if you need to do it over, the window for doing something positive could close on you.”

Farhat credits the Goldman School with preparing her to work in DC.

“GSPP prepared me for DC through annual networking trips, access to the alumni network, tailored career advice and an amazing Careers Services staff,” she says. “The 48-hour project was also a good lesson in working under pressure, which has been a valuable skill in the DC work world.”

“The most important quality for a career in DC is persistence,” she continues. “It is very much a town that relies on face-to-face interaction, and where the ‘who you know’ mantra rings true. Don’t be disheartened if things don’t work out, or if you have to take a not-so-great job in order to get to DC first — be persistent and opportunities will open themselves up to you.”

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Steve chair of the 2008 Presidential Transition Team where he drafted a policy framework for early education.

Amy Lerman was a communications consultant and speechwriter for members of both the 106th and 107th US Congresses.

Michael Nacht served as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Global Strategic Affairs (2009-2010) and Assistant Director for Strategic and Eurasian Affairs of the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (1994-97). Both appointments were confirmed by the US Senate by a unanimous vote.

Janet Napolitano served as the United States Secretary of Homeland Security (2009-2013).


Jesse Rothstein served as a Senior Economist for the Council of Economic Advisers and then as Chief Economist at the US Department of Labor (2009-10).

IN THE SUMMER OF 2009, A NORTH KOREAN SHIP containing illicit cargo departed from its territorial waters, seemingly headed for Myanmar (Burma), possibly before transfer to the Middle East. Delivery of the cargo would have been in clear violation of several UN Security Council resolutions. As Assistant Secretary of Defense for Global Strategic Affairs, Michael Nacht was called upon to participate in an inter-agency team to assess the situation and help formulate a response.

“We did not want to use force, if at all possible, or to create a major international incident,” remembers Professor Nacht. “But it was essential that this dangerous material not reach its intended destination.”

Professor Nacht has a unique view on the Goldman School’s intersection with the nation’s capital. He led the School as dean from 1998-2008, and has served in two presidential administrations in posts where he received unanimous US Senate confirmation (Assistant Secretary of Defense for Global Strategic Affairs, the Obama administration and Assistant Director for Strategic and Eurasian Affairs of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency in the Clinton administration).

Facing such high pressure is an essential part of the skill set needed to work in DC, notes Professor Nacht.

“How do you know a crisis when you see it? How does it affect decision making?” he asks. “The essence of Washington is making decisions in short amounts of time with limited information. It’s as much art as it is science.

“Lots of serious quantitative and qualitative analysis is routinely conducted in Washington,” he says. “The Goldman School’s core curriculum and electives give our students sophisticated training to be very literate in this material. But that is only a part of how decisions get made. So we also offer courses like Bob Reich’s course on leadership, Jeanne Farch’s course on the law and courses on communication and negotiations. Policy analysis is important but in no way is it the sole determinant of how policy is shaped.

“Every federal agency is itself divided into subparts,” continues Professor Nacht. “There is competition within and between agencies for influence. You need to consider the role of Congress, the media and lobbyists. GSPP is a kind of boot camp for getting ready for the ‘combat’ of Washington policy making.”

So what happened to that North Korean ship?

“The situation was resolved in a very clever, non-obvious way,” says Professor Nacht. “The United States convinced a government close to the government of Myanmar to persuade them to deny the ship entry. The ship returned to Pyongyang. From our perspective, it was absolutely the right thing to do. We achieved our goal in a peaceful way after looking at many different options.”

Such fast-paced, critical problem solving is what makes working in DC so rewarding. “It’s not easy,” he says, “but you can have a big impact.”

Equipped to Lead
From the Desk of

Martha Chavez

Important Milestone for Race & Policy Symposium

THIS SPRING 2015 MARKED an important milestone for the Goldman School’s students of Color in Public Policy (SCiPP) group’s fifth annual Race and Policy Symposium. Founded in 2011, the Race Symposium has raised the level of discourse about the importance of race in the public policy arena as well as within the broader contexts of society.

In 2011, the inaugural Race Symposium entitled “Building our Awareness: How We Engage Race in Our Work” discussed the impact of the election of an African-American president, appointment of a Latina to the Supreme Court, and first time Asian-American mayors elected to the cities of Oakland and San Francisco. The symposium also addressed the large minority representation within the nation’s prison population, as well as the key factors affecting the socioeconomic and racial health disparities that persist in the US.

The culmination of the first race symposium ended with a call to bridge the gap between the academy and community to work together to support communities of color and address racial equity issues.

This spring, SCiPP organized another outstanding symposium entitled “Implicit Bias and Its Explicit Consequences: What’s Race Got to Do With It?” The symposium was organized in four separate panels and began with a special keynote by Claude Steele, UC Berkeley’s Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, who discussed his work on stereotype threat and its application to minority student academic performance. The symposium included panels on unconscious bias, race and law enforcement, focusing on the implications of subtle forms of unconscious and implicit bias in the law environment, as well as the challenges and risks involved in policing. The second panel included discussions of efforts towards police accountability, new forms of policies such as “community-oriented policing,” and the creation of recommendations to address biases in law enforcement in order to rebuild community trust. The third panel focused on “Race in Media,” on the portrayal of communities of color in the media and their impact on fostering unconscious racial bias. The final closing panel focused on “Race in Policy,” exploring how social psychology informs policy-making and its connection to structural racialization, as well as ways in which policymakers can address racial disparities through public policy.

With these goals in mind, I chose to work in the Office of Research at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) this past summer in Washington, DC. I have a background in finance and economic research, and I was eager to leverage that expertise and learn more about consumer financial policy in one of the Office of Research’s several teams.

To my surprise, I was assigned to the Decision-making and Behavioral Studies group, an area in which I had no previous experience or even relevant coursework. I worried about jumping into a research environment full of scholars with PhDs in behavioral studies and psychology, but I quickly learned that the rigorous and multidisciplinary education provided at the Gold- man School had more than prepared me to join and contribute to the CFPB’s Office of Research, I also brought an outsider’s perspective that the other researchers found valuable.

In one of my major projects I worked with a team of researchers and a private mortgage and home search company to design experimental interventions aimed at measuring the impact of additional shopping effort when choosing a mortgage on consumers’ home-owning outcomes. Our concern was that some consumers, particularly those with limited education and low financial literacy, were paying higher interest rates than necessary by not shopping around for mortgage servicers and by failing to accurately compare the complex terms of competing mortgages. Because I had substantial experience in statistics and quantitative methods from my first year at GSPB, I was able to contribute by completing an analysis of how many participants were needed in order to be confident in the results of the statistical tests that the other researchers were going to be using to evaluate the impact of the interventions.

Relaying on the statistical and programming training I had received in Professor Rucker Johnson’s Decision Analysis, Modeling, and Quantitative Methods course and Professor Solomon Hsiang’s Spatial Data and Analysis course, I was able to not only complete the analysis for my assigned project, but to build a customized tool designed to meet the unique needs of the Office of Research’s experimental study designs more broadly, which could be used in other projects going forward.

The CFPB is a relatively new federal bureau that is still in the early phases of establishing its position as a regulator and making the rules that will define its impact on the financial markets. I joined the Office of Research to gain a firsthand understanding of how high-quality research can impact policymaking, and toward that end my experience at the CFPB was invaluable and has helped shape how I plan to contribute as a policy researcher. Next fall I plan to continue my studies toward a PhD in public policy so that I can continue to impact policymaking through research and scholarship. My time at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau was instrumental both in solidifying my interest in engaging with policy primarily through research and in illustrating the importance of engaging policy through an interdisciplinary lens.

By Felix Owusu

MPP Candidate ’15

I came to the Goldman School to develop my skills in quantitative policy research while gaining experience designing, researching, and evaluating policies that reduce poverty and inequality. With these goals in mind, I chose to work in the Office of Research at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) this past summer in Washington, DC. I have a background in finance and economic research, and I was eager to leverage that expertise and learn more about consumer financial policy in one of the Office of Research’s several teams.

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PolicyMatters: How has financial regulation played out over the last five years since Dodd-Frank was passed?

Frank: The move away from having the lenders be the people whom the borrowers had to pay back was very important. The move from “I lend you money, you pay me back” to “I lend you money and then I sell the right to be paid back to other people” was a serious problem, because the discipline inherent in my lending you money if I expect to paid back dissolved. Essentially the financial incentive for lenders moved from the quality of each loan to the quantity of loans. I think that was the root of the problem, because it was loans that had higher-than-normal rates of not being paid back that were put into the securities and sold again and insured against. They were the bullets that destroyed things. And you had useless credit rating agencies, pretending to know things they didn’t.

The regulators apparently believed that credit had gotten too tight, and that if there had to be risk retention [by lenders] it would be too hard for even moderate-income people to get loans. So they adopted a rule that essentially did away with risk retention for all mortgage loans. We have two categories of mortgage loans right now: those that are so crappy that you can’t make them at all, and those that have no risk retention. I wanted three categories of loans: ones you can’t make, ones that are so good that you don’t have to have risk retention, and one in the middle. That’s my one problem. Other than that, I think they’ve been doing fine with it and if you read the financial pages, it’s having a very real impact on banks and on behavior.

Comparing it to the ideal, where do you still see areas that need work?

Well, if you had an ideal, we would have merged the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodities Futures Trading Commission. Given the economic and social history of America, farmers versus financiers, we couldn’t do that. I regret the fact that automobile dealers had the political clout to get themselves exempted from [oversight by] the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. But it did give us a chance to do a controlled experiment, which we rarely can do in public policy. Because that’s the only area of consumer lending exempted from the Bureau, that’s where all the crap is happening. All of the bad consumer finance crises have migrated to that one area that’s exempt from the Bureau. So it proved that the Bureau was a very good idea.

One of the questions we were discussing beforehand is how much financial regulation differs from other regulation and whether it’s unique or just more difficult to work on. It’s more difficult in this sense: it is very arcane, it affects the average citizen in ways that he or she does not perceive, and it is opposed by very powerful and specific interests. It’s a paradox: until recently — I think we put a stop to it — the opponents of financial reform had more success at chipping away at it than opponents of healthcare, even though financial reform is much more popular with the general public than healthcare.

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— Congressman Barney Frank

Former Congressman Barney Frank visited the Goldman School during “Stop the Clock” week, which provides students and faculty with a chance to interact with leading decision-makers who have worked in public policy and government. The following is an excerpt from a conversation between Frank and PolicyMatters Journal editors Joe Breadus and Matt Unrath. PolicyMatters can be found at http://www.policymattersjournal.org/
shouldn’t be making because they didn’t have to worry about repayment. So several states then began to adopt rules to restrict subprime mortgages — Georgia, New Jersey — and the banks complained. We have a dual banking system in America: there are state-chartered banks and federally-chartered banks. And the Bush administration used federal constitutional power to say that no state could act to regulate a national bank. Very sweeping. There’s always been the rule that a state couldn’t do something that conflicted with what the federal government said, but in this case, they did something called a “field preemption.” They said that no state may regulate any of the practices of a national bank that deal with banking. And that was done because states had started to regulate subprime mortgages. So when that happened, we then decided we had to pass a federal law to regulate subprime mortgages. We started working on it, and the Republican leadership killed it. So, the earlier attempt to regulate subprimes was more to protect homeowners. It was originally consumer protection. We came to see subprime mortgages as having negative implications for society as well — but yes, the impetus was consumer protection. We’d like to ask you more generally about inequality, which is coming up a lot these days: is there anything to the attention that Republicans are now giving this issue, or is it all rhetorical? It’s a serious problem. I think it’s the major problem that Democrats have with white working-class guys: that inequality has gotten worse, that they have been the victims. They have this state-by-state competition for industry, and that is a leveling-downward factor. You also see it with the attack on public employee compensation. Some of the pensions are out of line. And increase the public sector. Tax rich people more and put more money into good public sector jobs. You know, as a family gets richer, it hires people to do the gardening, do the driving, etc. Well, as a society gets richer, we can have more of us working to keep ourselves in good shape. Fix the parks. Fix transit. You can let the public sector have these decent jobs. So you’re here at a professional policy school, an institution that is training people to be policy analysts and policy leaders. What skill would you say is in shortest supply in DC right now? Accounting. CPAs. Is the Social Security system moving around their money or not? What are the effects of taxes? I wish I had paid more attention to accounting — I’m averse to mathematics, to economics in general. This whole notion of thinking like a lawyer — there’s no such thing as thinking like a lawyer. I went to law school. Think like an economist. There are things that economists think that are not instinctive. For instance, the notion of opportunity cost. I would teach more economics, and particularly accounting. All these arguments are about whether things are profitable or not profitable. People hide behind accounting. So that’s the major thing. There’s one course I would like people to take that doesn’t exist very much: legislating, which is a very unusual kind of work that involves several hundred very ambitious people who have to work together. Now, in most of your formal relationships, you are governed by one of two principles, or sometimes both. There’s hierarchy: she’s the boss, and those people report to her, but then she’s got the Board of Directors, and almost everybody on the Board of Directors is elected by the shareholders, and so on. Or, money: if you’re willing to paint my house, I’ll give you money to do it. But members of the legislative body have to work together and there is no hierarchy and you’re not allowed to bribe each other. The Speaker is more influential than a freshman on the other side, but nobody in the US House of Representatives or the Senate may order any other Representative or Senator to do anything. That’s very unusual: even with academic tenures, you can be told that you have to teach a certain course. So that’s an unusual set of skills that are required, an unusual process that I wish people knew more about. Legislating sometimes looks to people like it’s pure willfulness; it’s not, there’s a logic to it. But I would start with accounting. You’ve mentioned unions. What else would you do to address inequality? Obama is right about the community colleges. It’s short-term vs. long-term. Education is a big deal, community college is a big deal. And increase the public sector. Tax rich people more and put more money into good public sector jobs. You know, as a family gets richer, it hires people to do the gardening, do the driving, etc. Well, as a society gets richer, we can have more of us working to keep ourselves in good shape. Fix the parks. Fix transit. You can let the public sector have these decent jobs. 

Barney Frank Cont’d. from previous page

Joe Breddus and Matt Unrath are both first-year students at the Goldman School of Public Policy and PolicyMatters Journal Editors.

Policy editors and Nonprofit editors.

EVERY NOVEMBER, THE GOLDMAN SCHOOL brings a cadre of 1st and 2nd year students to the nation’s capital to hear from alumni working in the federal government, think tanks, foundations and nonprofits and to make connections that prepare them for summer internships and jobs after graduation.

The networking trip culminates with a networking reception with GSPP alumni and employers from the greater DC area. This annual trip is made possible by the generous support of Goldman School Advisory Board member Steve Silberstein.

students Network DC

Teri Gullo ’83 [left] and Holly Harvey ’86 speak to students at the Congressional Budget Office.

A. Kazimir Brown ’13 and David Croom ’12

Jeff Abramson ’03, Steve Caldwell ’83 with Cecille Cabacungan, GSPP’s Managing Director of Career and Alumni Services.

Student Alex Lin (center) poses with fellow students Arshuman Tiwari, Garima Vashishtha and Ravi Appareal.

Sara Lepore Dube ’07 speaks with students at the Pew Charitable Trusts.

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event highlights

Healthcare Reform in California: Challenges and Opportunities
California Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones discussed the health care reform opportunities and challenges facing California voters at the 2015 Rhoda Goldman Distinguished Lecture in Health Policy. This program can be found in GSPP’s web archives: gspp.berkeley.edu/webcasts

New Student Barbecue
Goldman School faculty, staff and current students welcomed the entering class of masters and doctoral students at the annual New Student Barbecue in the GSPP Courtyard.

Another Take on the FSM: Challenges to Free Speech in a Polarized Era
Henry E. Brady, Robin Lakoff and Waldo E. Martin, Jr. discussed civility and free speech in a polarized society — particularly as they play out in university settings — and addressed the ways public institutions can best foster thoughtful conversations, spirited debate, and constructive dissent. The panel was sponsored by the Goldman School of Public Policy’s Center on Civility & Democratic Engagement and moderated by Richard “Dick” Beahrs (’68). The event was part of Cal’s Parents & Reunion Weekend at Homecoming. This program can be found in GSPP’s web archives: gspp.berkeley.edu/webcasts

Behind the Kitchen Door: Wages and Conditions for Food System Workers
Goldman School lecturer Saru Jayaraman described the treatment of the nation’s food workers and argued for increasing the minimum wage at the fall Board of Advisors and friends dinner. This program can be found in GSPP’s web archives: gspp.berkeley.edu/webcasts

From left: Global Executive Program Fellows Piyush Kumar Gupta, Vijay Mohan Jain and Sumnesh Joshi with Assistant Dean Sudha Shetty.

From left: Jesse Ante (UCB ’68) with second year students Francesca Delgado, Alex Marqusee, Michael Burdich and Felix Owusu.

From left: Saru Jayaraman
Right: Jonathan Stein (MPP ’13)
Tom Grumbly (MPP ’74) began his career in Washington at the White House Office of Management and Budget and went on to key roles in the federal government, including Under Secretary of Energy in the Clinton Administration. Until recently, he was the Vice President for Civil Government Programs at Lockheed Martin. Tom is now the President of Supporters of Agricultural Research (SoAR), a non-partisan coalition of scientists, consumer and producer groups advocating for sound agricultural research policies. He spoke with Policy Notes about his extensive experience in DC and why he is still hopeful about what government can do.

You came to DC in the early 70s. That must have been a fascinating time to launch a career in the federal government. It’s hard to convey — if you aren’t of a certain age and weren’t here — what an unusual time it was in the American government. President Nixon had just resigned. Things were so unbelievable, so jarring. We wondered if we would wake up and see tanks in the streets. When that passed and President Ford came in, many smart people came to work in and with the government. They wanted to try and help stabilize things.

You started at the OMB doing ag research? Yes. My GSPP internship involved an analysis of the twelve California field stations that were a part of UC Berkeley’s agricultural research organization. That led to a job at the OMB working on R&D policy.

Back then, the OMB was a kind of second graduate school for young professionals. I was able to meet an enormous number of senior people in government and the private sector and watch how policy-making happen at a very high level. I was twenty-four years old when I sat in on a meeting with the President of the United States. I became very interested in the political side of things and went on to an appointment in the Carter administration.

The Goldman School prepared me incredibly well to see the politics that characterized the early 19th and 20th centuries. It’s important to take advantage of the intersects in politics, the places where we can find agreement. Infrastructure is one example. I’m doing R&D policy, in part, because it is an area where there aren’t huge ideological differences. Both the tea party and the left wing can agree that R&D is a good thing.

In the meantime, how can anything in Washington get done? It’s important to take advantage of the intersects in politics, the places where we can find agreement. Infrastructure is one example. I’m doing R&D policy, in part, because it is an area where there aren’t huge ideological differences. Both the tea party and the left wing can agree that R&D is a good thing.

What advice would you have for GSPP alumni who want to work in Washington? Network, network, network. Everything here is about relationships. If you have a smart idea and the relationships to back it up, the idea can spread relatively quickly. Don’t get caught up by the glitz of the place. If you really want to be involved in the political process, sure, sign on for a partisan job and have fun. But remember that politics in DC are a caricature of real life. Focus on the ideas you want to advance. And don’t lie. Remember that the only way to goodness is through the truth.

People often comment on how polarized Washington is. Can government still get things done? I’m a practical idealist. I still very strongly believe the government has an important role in the 21st century as we integrate into the rest of the world. I believe you can come here and make things happen.

Having said that, Washington is back to the extremely partisan politics that characterized the early 19th and 20th centuries. It’s disappointing and infuriating when people make up facts to bolster their ideas or present ideas as if they’re facts. This has certainly not been the first time in our country’s history that things have been that way, but it may be more dangerous now because we live in a world where what anyone says is instantly available to everyone else.

The good news is, with the demographic shifts happening in our nation, the status quo cannot remain. The infantilization of the generation has increased much more openness to the complexity of human relations and willingness to accept other people at face value. And economics will force us to be more integrated with the rest of the world.

The Alumni Board is seeking nominations for candidates to fill five available board positions. Terms are 3 years and begin in September 2015. Submit nominations online at http://tiny.cc/gsppalumniboard.

If you are interested in running for an Alumni Board Seat, contact Board Chair Mark Hoffman ’75 (mhoff1888@aol.com) or Clare Nolan ’03 (clarenolan@gmail.com).
Michael Look (MPP ’95), currently Community Development Block Grant Program manager for the City of Seattle, Washington, recently became President of the National Community Development Association. NCDIA is composed of municipal and county governments involved in federally-funded programs to facilitate economic and community development in low-income areas.

Clare Nolan (MPP ’03) was promoted to Chief Strategy Officer (CSO) at Harleer-Company Community Research, a national consulting firm that specializes in research and strategy for the social sector. As CSO, Clare will guide the advancement of Harleer-Company’s national reputation for learning, strategy, and capacity building. She is currently serving as Chair of the Governance Committee of the GSPP Alumni Association Board.

Dale Shimasaki (MPP ’78, PhD ’95) is the CEO at Strategic Education Services, a lobbying and consulting firm focused on K-12 education and community college clients in Sacramento. He has held his position since 1999.

W. David Featherman (MPP ‘13) will present the results of his APA research at two conferences later this year: the IBBI International Biomass Conference & Expo in Minneapolis, MN and the ASCE Watershed Management Symposium in Boston, VA.

Gina Banks (MPP ’07) looks forward to advancing her alma mater as the Director of Federal Government Relations for UC Berkeley.

Cyndi Spindell Berck (MPP ’95, JD ’96) will release her nonfiction book, Poschachts and Sacagawea: Intervener Logics in American History, soon through Commonwealth Books of Virginia.

Pam Cheng (MPP ’03) founded MyEdaya, a company that recently made history by being one of the first companies ever certified to give patients control over their medical information. Companies can now simply email a patient their medical records through their public health initiatives.

Paul Perry (MPP ‘11), Bay Area Executive Director of the Reset Foundation, will launch a residential education campus for court-involved youth ages 18-24 in East Oakland as an alternative to incarceration.

Karen Zhang (MPP ’11) had her daughter on September 27, 2014. She is thrilled to open a new chapter of life and is very grateful to have lots of support in raising her daughter, so that she can still work and travel as a new mom. Karen and her husband named her Zhiqiu Tian, the Chinese meaning of which translates into farmland in the fall as they hope to return to an active, data driven approach to prosecution, focusing on hot spots and crime drivers to make a significant impact on public safety in San Francisco.

Peter Lequin (MPP ’93) has authored a book that will be published by Palgrave Macmillan this summer. Titled The Public Sector R&D Enterprise: A New Approach to Portfolio Valuation, it focuses on US government programs that support applied research and development in fields like energy, transportation, and the environment. The book compares a primer on how government R&D programs work with a method for prospectively measuring the value and risks of R&D investments before they are made.

Ola Friday (MPP ’07) is currently finishing her first year as a doctoral candidate in the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She is pursuing a degree in education leadership with a focus on early childhood education.

Beth Siruil (MPP ’05), President of Pacific Community Ventures, was recently awarded the Irvine Foundation’s California Leadership Award, which recognizes leaders who have developed and are advancing innovative solutions to pressing problems in the state. Learn more about PCV’s proven, scalable efforts to create economic opportunity in California’s low income communities at http://bit.ly/2D0MxI.

David Gray (MPP ’12) recently accepted a position as the Director of Projects and Programs in the Office of the Mayor for the City of Richmond. In his position, David will spearhead special projects for the mayor relating to asset building, business relations, climate change, and environment, food access, health policies, My Brother’s Keeper, poverty efforts, Richmond Main St./downtown development, the Richmond Promise scholarship program, and urban agriculture initiatives.

Enrique Ruizache (MPP ’12) recently started a new job in Sacramento as the Legislative Advocate for the California Association of School Business Officials, and is looking to connect with fellow GSPP alumni.

Jason Burwen (MPP ’09, MA-ERG ’10) worked with the staff of Bill Gates and other leaders of the American Energy Innovation Council to manage the production and release of their latest report on federal investment in clean energy technology R&D. This report was covered by the New York Times and cited by the Secretary of Energy in recent hearings. Jason also welcomes into the world his daughter, Saskia.

Maria McKee (MPP ’08) is the Principal Analyst of the Crime Strategies Unit for the SF District Attorney’s Office as of October 2014. DA Gascón established this unit to take a proactive, data driven approach to prosecution, focusing on hot spots and crime drivers to make a significant impact on public safety in San Francisco.

David Creighton (MPP ’95) continues to work as an advisor and guest lecturer at the Nagahata Center in India, a residential school that trains young Indian men and women from the Dalit (untouchable) community as community activists. In January, David traveled to India and gave a televised talk on the vision of Dr. Ambedkar, the great Indian social reformer who advocated that people from the Dalit community convert to Buddhism as a way of leaving the caste system behind. The non-profit he manages arranges for delegations of Western human rights activists and Buddhists to visit India and learn about the social conditions there.

Sheetal Dhir (MPP ‘13) is working as the Communications Strategist for the Federal Judicial Center at ALCU National with a major focus on criminal law reform and mass incarceration.

Margaret Salazar (MPP ’06) is the Field Office Director of the HUD Oregon State office. She welcomes into the world twins, Gabriel and Vanessa.

Sarah Martin-Anderson (MPP ’08, MPH ’10, PhD ’13) was recently appointed by Mayor Sly James to the Kansas City, Missouri Health Commission — a city-chartered commission that informs public health policy. She also accepted a joint appointment with the UMKC School of Medicine, making her the first faculty member there to have an appointment in the School of Management and the Department of Biostatistics/Health Informatics.

Anne Hayes Hartman (MPP ’02, JD ’06) joined the law firm of Constantine Cannon LLP in their SF office as a partner in their Whistleblower Practice Group, which represents whistleblowers under the False Claims Act, the Dodd-Frank Act, and the various federal and state laws that provide incentives for industry insiders to report evidence of fraud or misconduct. False Claims Act cases give a window into the many different, often highly creative, ways entities use to subvert public policy for their own benefit. Anne has long represented whistleblowers under the False Claims Act, in cases of Medicare fraud, defense contract fraud, and other types of government contracting fraud. She is rewarding work to stop fraud against the government and return money to the public coffers. The move to Constantine will allow her to devote all of her energies to whistleblower work, as part of a fantastic and experienced group of lawyers at a firm that has the resources to take on big cases.

The United States Senate confirmed President Obama’s nomination of Nani Colarotti (MPP ’94) as Deputy Secretary of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As the second most senior official at HUD, Nani will manage the Department’s day-to-day operations, including a $45 billion annual budget and approximately 8,500 employees. Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Mathews Burwell tapped Alastair Fitzpayne (MPP ’98) to be the next chief of staff at HHS.

Shelly Gobshah (MPP ’15) left her 7 year tenure working on a children’s health advocacy project for the Pew Charitable Trust in Washington. She currently does health policy consulting, and leadership coaching for nonprofits.

Mark Sawicki (MPP ’03) joined the City of Oakland in February 2015 as the new Director of Economic & Workforce Development. Tari Gullu (MPP ’83) has been promoted to Assistant Director for Budget Analysis at the Congressional Budget Office. In that capacity she will lead CBO’s largest division, which prepares budget projections and cost estimates for the US Congress. She happily notes that she is joined in the Budget Analysis Division by five other GSPP graduates.
from the desk of Annette Doornbos

The 11% Problem

99% graduating MPP’s job placement
77 Goldman School programs on the UCTV Public Policy Channel
1.6M Views of Goldman School UCTV programs
30 Public Policy International Affairs (PPIA) summer program participants
25 Young African Leaders Institute (YALI) participants
-10 international and domestic government leaders who participate in GSPP Executive Education

-520 individual gifts/year
-520 individual gifts/year
-520 individual gifts/year
-520 individual gifts/year

GSPP Board of Advisors

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Garrett Gruenner Executive Chairman, Nanomix, Inc.; Co-Founder, Alta Partners; Founder, Bekerl, Av. Jeeve, Inc., now Asa.com
Thomas P. Grumbly (MPP ’74) Vice President, Civil Government Programs, Lockheed Martin Corporation
Cynus Hadill Portfolio Manager, JMB Capital Partners, LP
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Gary B. Pruitt (MPP/JD ’01) President and CEO, The Associated Press
Thomas C. Schneider Retired Advisory Director, Morgan Stanley; Former Trustee, UC Berkeley Foundation
Michelle Schwartz (MPP/MPH ’88) Principal, Michael Schwartz Associates; Trustee, UC Berkeley Foundation
Budd Shenkin, MD (MPP ’77) President, Bay Area Medical Group
Steve Silberstein Retired Co-Founder of Innovative Interfaces, Inc.; Trustee, UC Berkeley Foundation
Catherine L. Unger Trustee, Unger Family Foundation
John Wilton Vice Chancellor for Administration & Finance, University of California, Berkeley; Former Managing Director and Director of International for Farallon Capital Management, LLC
Jeryn Yoon Director, Barclays Capital, Seoul, Korea

by including GSPP in their estate plan, Jim Maloney (MPP ’05) and his husband Andrew Nance join GSPP’s Silver Society. Jim writes: “My classmates and I began our tradition of giving by establishing the Class of 2005 PolicyMatters Award to annually recognize a student for outstanding policy-writing in the Goldman School. I was heartened to find out first hand that the five classes that followed us also chose to give back in creative and rewarding ways. We all competed and collaborated to take advantage of a special matching opportunity that ultimately resulted in over $210,000 for GSPP, some of which launched GSPP’s first student endowed fellowship. Andrew and I believe that giving back helps the Goldman School to provide future students the same excellent education I received. As ardent supporters of our respective alma maters, we also know that giving is an important way to stay connected to the School, the students and other alumni. We urge today’s new and other alumni to establish endowed faculty chairs and funds annually. For information on making a planned gift call Annette Doornbos at 510.642-8005 or Lynn Cerda Price at 510.642.1674 or visit https://gssp.berkeley.edu/make-a-gift/planned-gifts

silver society Jim Maloney and Andrew Nance

The 11% Problem

OF ALL THE TELLING NUMBERS that make up the Goldman School universe, the one to bear in mind is 11%. That’s the historic low that the State of California now contributes to UC Berkeley’s budget (and with no restoration of state funds in sight). To understand the impact of such a drastic decline in state support it helps to look at how that 11% stacks up to other GSPP metrics. Equally instructive is a review of the various resources called on to take advantage of a special matching ways. We all competed and collaborated the five classes that followed us also chose to give back in creative and rewarding ways. We all competed and collaborated to take advantage of a special matching opportunity that ultimately resulted in over $210,000 for GSPP, some of which launched GSPP’s first student endowed fellowship. Andrew and I believe that giving back helps the Goldman School to provide future students the same excellent education I received. As ardent supporters of our respective alma maters, we also know that giving is an important way to stay connected to the School, the students and other alumni. We urge today’s new and other alumni to establish endowed faculty chairs and funds annually. For information on making a planned gift call Annette Doornbos at 510.642-8005 or Lynn Cerda Price at 510.642.1674 or visit https://gssp.berkeley.edu/make-a-gift/planned-gifts

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EVERY DAY WE WAKE UP to disturbing headlines that motivate the important work of Goldman School's Center on Civility & Democratic Engagement. Luckily, GSPP is a place where students and faculty approach their lives and careers with the belief that the world can be made better by enlightened people working together to empower citizens, leaders, agencies and governments.

How is the Center pursuing these efforts? Through advanced graduate-student work in the community; through teaching, research, public events, and designed online activities furthering engagement and participation; and through fostering national conversations on these topics and building Berkeley's leadership in the field. Here are just a few examples:

- Our Civility Fellowships Program provides support for GSPP students’ thesis-equivalent public policy projects on civic engagement and civility for real-world clients. Projects combine policy analysis and fieldwork. Past clients include the City of Oakland Public Ethics Commission (on the City’s varied online tools for public engagement), the City of Vallejo (on its participatory budgeting process, now in its third year), and for the Center itself serving as client (on local citizen-based processes for budgetary priority-setting). We are delighted to report that, thanks to the generous support of members of the Class of 1968, we now have a named endowment to support this fellowship effort. Inaugural awards from that newly strengthened fund were made this spring to second-year MPP students Alex Kaplan and Jonathan Yantzi. These students will produce policy briefs summarizing their work and these will be available on the Center’s website.

- We continue to offer “Cities and Their Citizens,” a course I developed that covers public participation and how local government can best promote it.

- We are working to strengthen citizenship skills in early childhood development. K-12 curriculum may over-emphasize the Common Core Standards for subjects like math, science and reading without also strengthening civility-enriched civics and social studies. Our first effort is a project entitled “Common Core and the New Civics: Friends or Foes” that aims to bridge that gap, making civility and consensus-building part of lifelong learning. We recently received seed funding from UC Berkeley’s Institute for the Study of Societal Issues to launch the project.

- Lastly, our Center’s biannual public events are an anchor product generating leadership, knowledge sharing, and community conversation. A panel on “Big Money Politics after Citizens United: Keeping Voters Engaged in Democracy” took place on Cal Day, on April 18, 2015. If you were not able to attend, I urge you to visit https://gspp.berkeley.edu/cen
ters/cce to view this program and many others that the Center’s Advisory Board and colleagues have produced over the years.

These and other exciting projects illustrate the impact of our young Center. We look forward to sharing more about our work in future issues of Policy Notes.

Policy Notes is published twice a year by UC Berkeley’s Goldman School of Public Policy. Send questions or comments to Bora Reed, (510) 642-7591, borareed@berkeley.edu.

By Charlotte Cowden

GSPP Global

Maori MOA

When Assistant Dean Sudha Shetty and Dean Henry E. Brady made a policy presentation to a group of international trade officers in the summer of 2013, it seemed like an ordinary event. Little did they know that a fortuitous encounter would lead to an enduring partnership.

At the presentation, Ms. Shetty mentioned that she was flying to New Zealand the next day with Dean Jeffrey Edelson from the School of Social Welfare to present their work on violence against women. New Zealand’s head of trade, Mr. Reece Moors, was in attendance and offered to introduce her to two young women who were emerging leaders in their Maori community. Ms. Shetty and Dean Edelson soon met with Puawai Wereta and then her father, Mr. Tumanako Wereta, Chairman of the Tuaropaki Trust in Wellington.

The Trust, created in 1953 when Maori families pooled their land, was the first of its kind in New Zealand. Today, the Trust’s assets range from geothermal power to dairy, farming and viticulture, and are valued at upwards of $670 million. The promise of a mutually beneficial working relationship prompted Ms. Shetty to invite the Tuaropaki Trustees and Ms. Wereta to visit Berkeley in the fall of 2013. Meetings were arranged with Berkeley faculty, angel investors and community partners.

That fall 2013 visit continues to pay dividends. Puawai Wereta joined GEPI’s Independent Leader Scholar Program in Fall 2014. That semester, the Tuaropaki Trustees and their research team returned to campus to participate in a one-week executive training on Food Security and Leadership. Afterwards, the Trustees indicated that they would like to continue working with GSPP and the School of Social Welfare, to seek advising on future research.

GSPP, the School of Social Welfare and the Tuaropaki Trust formalized their partnership in February, 2015 with a Memorandum of Agreement signing ceremony in Taupo, New Zealand. Ms Shetty says, “I went to the edge of the world and found the most amazing, gentlest, smartest group of people who are interested in partnering with us to be thoughtful stewards of their land for generations to come...they won my heart.”

Brunei Fellows

This spring, GEPI welcomed four MPP students from the University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD) to the Executive Public Policy for International Students Program. The students each received a prestigious ASEAN Fellowship, which provides a full scholarship for outstanding students from ASEAN nations to pursue an MPP degree. As part of their two-year degree program at UBD, the Fellows study at GSPP for one semester. Suhin Chow, a corporate banker from Malaysia, Erjenia Likhovtseva, a student and political columnist from Southern Russia, Jit Nong Lim, of Singapore’s Ministry of Law; and Siti Diana Othman from Brunei’s Ministry of Defense all brought rich experience and varied perspectives to the Goldman. The group was joined by Dr. Mahani Hamdan, a mid-career fellow in the GEPI Independent Leader Scholar Program. With a background in accounting, Dr. Hamdan is a lecturer at the School of Business and Economics at UBD and works as an advisor for the Brunei government.

Group photo of the this Spring’s ILSP and EPPI Fellows
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